

Memorandum

Date: June 4, 2001
To: Ms. Kathleen DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation
Safety Assurance
From: Barbara J. Riggins
RE: Century A-lok

Dear Kathleen,

Enclosed please find a NHTSA Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment, regarding Century A-loks on car seats.

If you have any questions please call me at 610-286-4570. Thank you.

Barbara J. Riggins

Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Date this report was prepared: **June 1, 2001**

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer / brand name / trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and address of the designated U.S. agent as prescribed by section 110 (c) of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

**Century Product
9600 Valley View Rd.
Macedonia, Ohio 44056**

2. Description of recalled equipment is addressed on last page.

3. The total number of items of equipment potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Items Potentially Involved</u>
See attacheded	2001	6,509

Total Number of Items: 6,509

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance.

100% of the 6,509 car seat units have A-loks that may allow the webbing to slip to some degree.

This is a para-phrased guide developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports."

5. Identify the items of equipment potentially containing the defect or noncompliance for each make and model or applicable item or equipment product line (provide illustrations / photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:

Generic name of item: Convertible car seats

Make: Century Products

Model: see attached list

Part Number:

Size:

Function:

Model Years Involved: 2001

Production Dates: Beginning: 4/09/01

Ending: 5/10/01

Other descriptive information which characterizes / distinguished the items of equipment:

It was determined that the suspect lot number of A-loks were first used in manufacturing on 4/09/01 and once the issue was identified, manufacturing was stopped and the suspect A-loks and inventory was quarantined.

6. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should include but not be limited to a brief summary of the cause, nature, physical location, and consequence of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

Variations within the manufacture of the Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Inc. A-lok assembly (frame) can result in a slippage of the webbing in the event of an accident.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and chief executive officer or knowledgeable rep

Indiana Mills & Manufacturing, Inc.
18881 U.S. 31 North
Westfield, IN 46074

Mr. Al Lortz
Tom Anthony, CEO

Don Boyle IMM
317-896-9531
- what Alok does
- sold to anyone else

If the recall is for a defect complete item 7, for a noncompliance item 8.

7. Furnish a chronological summary of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

May 7, 2001: During the course of testing various child restraints at Veridian Engineering in Buffalo, Veridian advised Century that one A-lok assembly slipped during the dynamic test. Because the purpose of the testing was for evaluation and qualification of a new webbing supplier for the A-lok assembly, the cause of the slippage was initially thought to be the new webbing. A-lok assemblies with new webbing are not production components.

May 8, 2001: Century contacted Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Inc. to alert them about the issue. Both Century and Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Inc. begin to investigate the A-lok issue.

May 9, 2001: Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Inc. advises that the A-lok issue is believed to be caused by a variation in the A-lok frame and not the new webbing. This conclusion is based on laboratory testing other than dynamic crash testing.

May 17, 2001: Century decides to test production A-loks manufactured using the suspect lot of A-lok frames and production webbing. A-lok samples are requested to be shipped from Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Inc. to Century for assembly into crash test sample products.

May 22, 2001: Century performed testing of child restraints using production A-loks with the suspect stamping lots to determine whether or not the A-lok frame is in fact a concern.

May 23, 2001: Century performs evaluation of three crash test samples. Samples indicate that the production A-loks did slip during dynamic testing.

May 25, 2001: Determination was made to conduct a recall.

Three Accel convertible child restraints were tested on May 22, 2001. These products contained A-lok assemblies that were production quality components manufactured using production webbing and using the suspect lot numbers of A-lok frames.

The dynamic testing utilized an FMVSS-213 pulse, a 3YO dummy, and did not utilize a tether.

Run number 01052205: A-lok webbing slipped 4 inches

Run number 01052206: A-lok webbing slipped 5 inches

Run number 01052207: A-lok webbing slipped 6 inches

It should be noted that even though the A-lok assemblies slipped from 4 to 6 inches, the head and knee excursions passed the 32 inch and 36 inch requirements respectively. Century's determination of a defect is based on a child restraint harness system that is not properly and snugly adjusted on the child in the event of a secondary impact or roll-over.

Century has not received any reports regarding the suspect A-loks.

8. Furnish the test results or other data on which the manufacturer determined the existence of the noncompliance.

Not applicable

9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy. Identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

Century will replace the affected car seats at no expense to the consumer.

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers / retailers, and purchasers.

Century expects to notify our retail customers the prior to June 18, 2001, and consumers within 30 days. Century will directly contact registered owners. Century will provide a third party to sort inventory at the retail level.

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):

Not applicable

10. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser.

None

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the Agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Barbara J. Riggins, Manager Legal Affairs

Telephone Number: 610-286-4570

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Barbara J. Riggins, Manager Legal Affairs

Signed:

Barbara J. Riggins

A-lok Recall Model Numbers

Model numbers shipped within the April 9, 2001 to May 10, 2001 window:

Encore 44612 GTN 4662 WSC 01			
Bravo 44622 LTG 44630 LTH 44631 PFN 44662 WSC			
Accel 45100 CHT 45100 MTE 45100 STH 45200 LFT 45200 MXM 45600 JTI 45600 MTE 45600 MTO 45600 MXM 45600 SAF 45700 GSD 45700 LFT			
Smartmove 44709 MTE 44709 SVR			

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